

Washington, DC—Today, Congressman John Olver spoke on the House floor in support of H.R. 2767, which Congressman Olver introduced on August 1, 2011 to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8 West Silver Street in Westfield, Massachusetts, as the “William T. Trant Post Office Building.”

Corporal William Trant served the United States with distinction during World War II. During the D-Day invasion of Normandy, he went ashore on Utah Beach with the 8th Infantry Regiment of the 4th Division. Trant was wounded by machine gun fire in the arm and the leg during the battle. He participated in the liberation of France and survived the Battle of the Bulge where the Allied forces beat back Germany’s final attempt to change the tide of the war. For his heroism during the war he was awarded the Purple Heart.

William Trant was a loving and devoted father, grandfather, and husband. He passed away in April of 2002 following a long battle with prostate cancer and the loss of a son during the horrific attacks of 9/11. He is survived by his wife Mary – whose strength was recently the focus of a May 27 profile on MassLive.com – seven children, and a number of grandchildren.

Congressman Olver made the following remarks on the floor of the House of Representatives:

Mr. (Madam) Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2767, a bill that would designate the United States Post Office at 8 West Silver Street in Westfield, MA as the "William T. Trant Post Office Building".

William Trant was an exemplary citizen – a soldier, a father, a public servant, and a pillar of his community.

Born and raised in Westfield, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943 and participated in five of the great campaigns of World War II, including the invasion of Normandy. He was decorated with several military honors, including the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with five bronze stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Purple Heart with an oak leaf cluster for wounds sustained at Normandy and Rhineland.

After being honorably discharged at the end of the war, Mr. Trant returned home and worked for the U.S. Post Office in Westfield, leaving briefly to pitch for the minor league baseball team the New York Giants.

He served on Westfield's City Council for nearly 20 years and served as Acting Mayor in 1962 following the death of Westfield's incumbent Mayor. Through his service he became friends with several Massachusetts political figures, including President John F. Kennedy, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Congressman Silvio O. Conte, and House Speaker Tip O'Neil.

In 1967, Mr. Trant was appointed Postmaster to the Westfield Post Office, a title he proudly held while serving as Procurement Officer in the Springfield Post Office and Director of Procurement Services for the Northeast Postal District in Hartford, CT.

Mr. Trant was actively involved in sports programs for the young people of Westfield, including the Westfield Little League, Westfield Babe Ruth, and Westfield American Legion baseball. He and his wife Mary were devoted parents to nine children. He passed away in 2002, having lived a life that is an example and an inspiration to all who knew him.

Mr. (Madam) Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 2767 and ask my colleagues to join me in honoring William Trant's service to his country and community.

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